

Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSC-05 CCO-00 IO-10

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O R 080930Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7797

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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DEPT PASS THE SECRETARY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP GR PFOR MARR

SUBJECT: PROMINENT PRESS ATTENTION KISSINGER-BITSIOS MEETING

REF: SECTO 68

1. ATHENS PRESS GAVE PROMINENT AND ON WHOLE FAVORABLE REPORT TO TWO AND HALF HOUR MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND GREEK FORMIN BITSIOS IN BRUSSELS MARCH 7. SEVERAL PAPERS USED HEADLINE: "BITSIOS-KISSINGER: THERE IS SOME PROGRESS; SOME HOPE." MOST STORIES EITHER QUOTED OR PARAPHRASED SECRETARY'S AFFIRMATION OF US READINESS "TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER TO SPEED UP SOLUTION TO THIS DIFFICULT AND TRAGIC PROBLEM."

2. BITSIOS' STATEMENT (REFTEL) AND HIS PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING ALSO GIVEN PROMINENT TREATMENT. TO PRESS QUERY BITSIOS REAFFIRMED GREECE'S DECISION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHDRAW FROM THE MILITARY ORGANS OF THE ALLIANCE. HE

EMPHASIZED GREEK ARMED FORCES WERE NOW UNDER EXCLUSIVELY GREEK COMMAND. LIBERAL TO VIMA REPORTED WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION THAT BITSIOS ALSO SAID GREECE FIRST WISHED TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN GREECE BEFORE PROCEEDING TO TECHNICAL DETAILS OF GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM MILITARY COMMAND OF NATO. TO VIMA ALSO SPECULATED THAT SECRETARY HAD PROPOSED TO BITSIOS THAT GREECE ASSIST IN NON INTERNATIONALIZING CYPRUS PROBLEM, DELAY DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE OF AMERICAN BASES IN GREECE, AND BE TOLERANT OF US NEED TO CONTINUE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.

3. MOST PAPERS PROMINENTLY RAN PHOTO OF KISSINGER AND BITSIOS IN SERIOUS BUT RELAXED DISCUSSION.
STEARNS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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